

39. (New) A bonding device according to claim 27 wherein the base film extends beyond a first end of the conductive layer and wherein the overcoat layer does not overlap any portion of the bonding pad when the bonding device is attached to the bonding pad.

REMARKS

This communication is in response to the Office Action of January 3, 2002 with a one-month period of response through February 4, 2002. A Petition for Extension of Time – One Month is filed with this document. As the one-month extension period ended on Sunday, March 3, 2002, this document is timely filed on the first business day following the weekend.

Restriction Requirement

Examiner has indicated that the application contains claims directed to patentably distinct species of the claimed invention, wherein:

Group I includes claims 1-15 and 21-25; and

Group II includes claims 16-20.

Applicant hereby elects the claims of Group I (claims 1-15 and 21-25) for prosecution and hereby withdraws Group II, claims 16-20 from consideration.

The Office Action also required Applicant to elect a single specie of the claimed invention for prosecution. Specifically, the Office Action states that claims 1-15 and 21-25 are directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Specie I Figure 6

Specie II Figure 7

Specie III Figure 8

Specie IV Figure 9

Specie V

Figure 10.

This requirement for restriction is respectfully traversed in view of the following.

The species restriction requirement is traversed because it is improperly directed to the *figures* of the application instead of the claims. In particular, the Office Action does not identify which claims are subject to restriction as reading on the alleged species. This is contrary to the practice described in the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, which states:

In passing upon questions of . . . restriction, it is the claimed subject matter that is considered and such claimed subject matter must be compared in order to determine the question of distinctness or independence.

MPEP § 806.01 (emphasis added). Because the Office Action requires an election between embodiments disclosed in the figures instead an election between claims, Applicant respectfully requests that the restriction requirement be reconsidered and withdrawn. Accordingly, Applicant asks that all of claims 1-15 and 21-25 be considered for prosecution.

In the alternative, Applicant provisionally elects the specie disclosed in Figs. 6, 7 and 8 in the application. In further support of this provisional election, Applicant submits new claim 27, which encompasses the embodiments disclosed in these figures. Without limiting the scope of the claims, Applicant further submits that claims 1-15 and 21-25 read on the specie disclosed in Figs. 6, 7 and 8.

CONCLUSION

Applicant has elected the claims of Group I, claims 1-15 and 21-25, drawn to a flex print circuit for prosecution and hereby withdraws Group II, claims 16-20 from consideration. In addition, Applicant submits that the requirement to elect one of the listed species (I-V) corresponding to Figs. 6-10 has been traversed. In the alternative, Applicant provisionally elects the specie depicted in Figs. 6-8 and the claims that are directed to this specie:

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claims 1-15 and 21-39. Applicant further submits that new claim 27 encompasses the species depicted in Figs. 6-8.

After this Amendment and Response to Office Action, there will be 34 claims pending in this application, 4 of which are independent. Accordingly, a Fee Transmittal authorizing the Director to deduct \$446.00 from deposit account no. 13-0480 (Attorney Docket No. 32142361.1040) to cover the cost of the additional claims and the cost of the Petition for Extension of Time – One Month. In the event, however, that additional fees are necessary to complete this filing, please deduct only those additional amounts from this deposit account that are necessary to complete this filing.

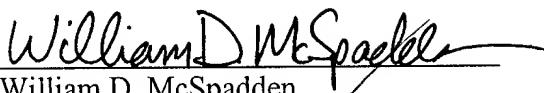
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned **VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE.**

Applicant respectfully requests consideration and allowance of all claims. If Examiner has any questions or other correspondence regarding this application, Applicant requests that this communication and all future correspondence be sent to Applicant at the following address:

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Respectfully Submitted,


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March 4, 2002

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

The amendments to claims are illustrated below with boldfaced underlined text representing what has been added and boldfaced bracketed text representing what has been deleted.

IN THE CLAIMS:

27. (New) A bonding device adapted for attachment to a bonding pad with an anisotropic conductive adhesive; the bonding device comprising:
a base film;
a conductive layer having a first side and a second side wherein a first side of the conductive layer is attached the base film;
an overcoat layer attached to a first portion of a second side of the conductive layer; and
a conductive element attached to a second portion of the second side of the conductive layer wherein the conductive element is adapted to form an electrical conduit between the conductive layer and the attached bonding pad.

28. (New) A bonding device according to claim 27 wherein the overcoat layer comprises at least two sections arranged on the second side of the conductive layer such that a portion of each of the two sections overlap a portion of the bonding pad when the bonding device is attached to the bonding pad.

29. (New) A bonding device according to claim 27 wherein the anisotropic conductive adhesive surrounds the conductive element when the bonding device is attached to the bonding pad.

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30. (New) A bonding device according to claim 27 wherein conductive element comprises gold.

31. (New) A bonding device according to claim 27 wherein the anisotropic conductive adhesive comprises anisotropic conductive film.

32. (New) A bonding device according to claim 27 wherein the conductive element comprises a bump having a height of about 12 to 38 μm .

33. (New) A bonding device according to claim 27 wherein the conductive element comprises a gold ball.

34. (New) A bonding device according to claim 27 wherein the conductive element comprises a filling that completely occupies a space formed by the bonding pad, the conductive layer, and the overcoat layer when the bonding device is attached to the bonding pad.

35. (New) A bonding device according to claim 33 wherein the filling is less than 10 μm thick.

36. (New) A bonding device according to claim 33 wherein the filling is about 10 to 38 μm thick.

37. (New) A bonding device according to claim 33 wherein the filling is thicker than or equal to the overcoat layer.

38. (New) A bonding device according to claim 33 wherein the filling is thinner than the overcoat layer.

39. (New) A bonding device according to claim 27 wherein the base film extends beyond a first end of the conductive layer and wherein the overcoat layer does not overlap any portion of the bonding pad when the bonding device is attached to the bonding pad.

\$110.00 from Deposit Account No. 13-0480 (Attorney Docket No. 32142361.1040) to cover the cost of this petition fee.

Applicant does not believe that any additional fees are required by this filing. In the event, however, that additional fees are required to complete this filing, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees that may be required or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-0480 (Attorney Docket No. 32142361.1040). The Commissioner is not authorized to charge issue fees to that account.

If Examiner has any questions regarding this Petition for Extension of Time – One Month or this application in general, Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's attorney at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,



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